



IFa

Patent  
Case No.: 55976US011

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: GATZKE, KENNETH G.  
Application No.: 10/723014      Group Art Unit: 1746  
Filed: November 26, 2003      Examiner: Gentle E. Winter  
Title: METHOD OF CLEANING AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:  
June 16, 2004      Douglas B. Little  
Date      Signed by: Douglas B. Little

Dear Sir:

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated May 28, 2004.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement among two groups of claims:

I. Claims 12-15 drawn to a method of cleaning an internal combustion engine in which a cleaner composition is drawn from a reservoir by vacuum from the engine, apparently classified in Class 134, subclass 21; and

II. Claims 16-20 drawn to a method of cleaning an internal combustion engine in which a cleaner composition is conveyed to the air intake manifold of an internal combustion engine under pressure from a reservoir, apparently classified in Class 134, subclass 20.

The inventions of Groups I and II are related since they are both methods for cleaning an internal combustion engine. Several dependent claims in both Groups I and II add the same limitations to the independent claims, namely claims 13-15 in Group I and claims 18-20 in Group II. Therefore, if all of the claims in either group are to be covered by a USPTO search, some of the same search fields will be applicable to both groups.

MPEP §803 requires that "[if] the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Therefore, it is not mandatory to make a restriction

requirement in all situations where it might be deemed proper. In the interest of economy, for the office, for the public at large, and for the Applicant, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.143, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group II.

Applicants earnestly solicit favorable consideration of the above response and early passage of the application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

June 16, 2004  
Date

By: Douglas B. Little  
Douglas B. Little, Reg. No.: 28,439  
Telephone No.: (651) 733-1501

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833